5. (Amended) The amide according to claim 1 wherein the bile salt is mono-, di- or tri-hydroxylated.

6. (Amended) The amide according to claim 1 wherein the bile salt contains a 3α-hydroxyl group.

7. (Amended) The amide according to claim 1 wherein the bile salt is an amphiphilic polyhydric sterol bearing carboxyl groups as part of the primary side chain.

8. (Amended) The amide according to claim 1 wherein the bile salt is underivatised or derivatised.

12. (Amended) An amide according to claim 1 wherein the peptide is selected from insulin, secretin, gastrin, gastrin releasing peptide, glucagon, cholecystokinin (CCK) gastric inhibitory peptide (also known as glucose insulinotropic peptide (GIP)), parathyroid hormone, thyrotropin-releasing hormone, gonadotropin-releasing hormone (also known as lutenizing hormone releasing hormone (LHRH)), corticotropin-releasing hormone, somatostatin, adrencorticotropic hormone (ACTH), renin, angiotensin I, angiotensin II, atrial natriuretic hormone (ANH), somatomedins, calcitonin, haemoglobin, cytochrome C, horseradish peroxidase, aprotinin, muchroom tyrosinase, erythropoietin, somatotropin (growth hormone), growth hormone releasing hormone, galanin, urokinase, Factor IX (also known as Christmas factor), tissue plasminogen activator, antibodies superoxide dismutase, catalase, peroxidase, ferritin, interferon, Factor VIII, soy bean trypsin inhibitor, GLP1, blood coagulation factors, somatostatin, antidiuretic hormone (ADH), oxytocin, polysaccharides, hirudin, and glycoproteins, such as follicle stimulating hormone (FSH), lutenizing hormone (LH) inhibin, chorionic gonadotropin (CGT) and thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH), and analogues and fragments of all these, or mixtures of one or more of these.

15. (Amended) A pharmaceutical formulation, comprising an amide according to claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

18. (Amended) An amide according to claim 1 or a physiologically functional derivative thereof, for use in therapy.

19. (Amended) A method for the preparation of a pharmaceutical formulation comprising bringing into association an amide according to claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier thereof.

20. (Amended) Use of an amide according to claim 1 in the manufacture of a medicament in a form suitable for oral administration.

23. (Amended) Use according to claim 1 wherein said pharmaceutical agent is selected from polypeptides and glycoproteins, polysaccharides, oligonucleotides/ polynucleotides, anaesthetics, anxiolytics, hypotics, neuroleptics, anti-depressants, anti-epileptics, anti-Parkinsonian drugs, opioid analgesics, neuropeptide transmitters, neuropeptide transmitter antagonists, muscarinic agonists, anti-cholinesterases, muscarinic antagonists, nicotinic antagonists, direct sympathomimetics, indirect sympathomimetics, adrenergic blocking drugs, adrenoceptor antagonists, vasodilators, anti-angina drugs, cardiotonic drugs, anti-dysrhythmic drugs, anti-coagulants, plasma lipid lowering drugs, anti-anaemia drugs, anti-inflammatory drugs, diuretics, histamine antagonists, anti-peptic ulcer drugs, anti-gut motility disorder drugs, chemotherapy drugs, anti-bacterial drugs, anti-viral drugs, anti-fungal drugs and anti-parasite drugs.